

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, October 10, 2006

Present:

Kurt Schatz, Chair Alan Gerew

Alice Lavigne Vice Chair

Juliette Lopez

Al Low

Guest: Paula Montgomery, Lynn Clark & Sue Connelly

Absent: Al Musso

Excused: Dave Marcotte & Cheri Hall, Director – attending conference

Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairperson, at the Burrillville Town Hall.

Minutes of September 11, 2006 Regular Meeting were accepted.

Motion to accept made by Al Gerew. Seconded by Alice Lavigne.

Motion passed 4-0.

Correspondence:

Kurt Schatz received correspondence that the terms for the

Recreation Commission had expired for Dave Marcotte and himself. The Director will be asked to forward attendance records to the Screening Sub Committee of the Town Council.

Al Low and Al Musso also received reappointment letters. Kurt stated that they are supposed to have staggered terms, but somehow maybe a year was skipped. Al Low stated the he knows his was an odd year and this is an even year, so maybe he was supposed to be last year.

Special Guest:

Paula Montgomery from The American Cancer Society thanked the Recreation Commission for the opportunity of opening up for discussion the possibility of Burrillville hosting once again the Relay for Life for 2007.

At a meeting held on September 11th, with Relay committee members, Cheri Hall, Judy Lopez, Dave Marcotte and Alice Lavigne, and co-chair Joan Cotte, Paula addressed many of the issues that were listed in a letter received from the Director regarding negative issues that occurred at the Relay for Life in June. She assured the Commission that she agreed that the department should not have been expected to take on the lion share of the Relay and that problems which occurred at the Relay in June, were being remedied and addressed through a new committee, of which Lynn Clark & Sue Connelly are willing to co-chair for the 2007 event. However, a staff member for ACS had not been hired yet for the Relay to be held in

Burrillville. Paula did ask to be able to once again address the issues with the Commission.

Paula addressed the fact that more volunteers were needed to be recruited by the Committee and the expectation that the Parks & Recreation Department will take care of these things, absolutely should not be happening.

Paula understands that the fact that a complete committee was not in place was why the department was relied on more and more. Paula also said that a staff person from ACS is not required at the event for the total time, however delegated persons from the committee would be in charge for specified periods of time. Paula said that ACS and the co-chairs for the event are working on a plan of action for the next Relay where everything will be documented and open line of communication.

Paula asked if any of the Recreation Commission members had any questions for her or the co-chairs? Al Gerew commented that time is continuing to elapse and still no employee from ACS is in place and that at the meeting in September members of the Relay Committee Sub Committee of the Recreation Commission asked for a plan to give the Commission. The Commission has still not received this plan. Paula stated that she did not realize that she was supposed to have a plan and a time frame for this meeting. Al and Kurt expressed concern about the time schedule in being approved by the Recreation

Commission and then forwarded to the Town Council. Paula stated that she was not clear on how the process worked but, she realized they still had work to do. ACS is sending out a mailer to participants and survivors from 2005 and 2006 asking for volunteers to assist with an event in 2007. Paula stated that they hoped to generate many more participants from the Rally to be held in November, to create a committee that will fill all the roles needed for the Relay. The kickoff will be in February, but a committee needs to be in place before then. It appeared that the lack of committee members to fill the different roles is the reason that the recreation department staff was relied on more and more. Sue Connelly spoke of her dedication to the event as a survivor and the importance of the Relay for Life.

After a lengthy discussion, Kurt Schatz thanked Paula and the Co-Chairs for coming and that the commission understands that the Relay is a worthy cause. The Commission did vote in August to hold off a year on the Relay, however Dave Marcotte and Cheri are not here this evening so we asked that you return to the November 14th meeting at which time the Commission will be able to let you know if they are willing to change their vote for a relay even in 2007. A discussion was held whether or not to hold a special meeting before the next meeting, however the time frame was not feasible, as the Director would be away on vacation the last week in October. With the election and the holiday not possible for a special commission meeting.

The Commission members had a discussion on the importance of the director stepping back. This can become overwhelming. Alice Lavigne stated that the Director doesn't ask for help. She does have a stake in the event because she is a survivor. She also stated that ACS needs to take a more active role in the event and Cheri needs to step back. Judy commented that Cheri does a lot and much of the success is because she is involved. Judy commented that the resurfacing of the track might be factor for the Relay, however Kurt stated he saw a news release in the paper that the track was being completed this coming week.

Alice stated that she felt bad and hoped that the committee could reconsider. However, the Chair stated that they had to show the Commission a plan.

Good & Welfare:

Judy explained the bid process for the rink and the problems that she has as the winning bidder with providing food service at the rink, including the fact that she cannot get insurance without the installation of a hood. Also, a Health Department permit is needed to open and some issues need to be resolved before bringing the Health Department in for inspection.

Old Business:

Freedom Park

Judy reported receiving phone calls from the neighbors at Freedom Park. The Teenagers are damaging the equipment. Graffiti and foul language is causing parents who bring their small children to the park a problem. They have asked what can be done to restrict the teenagers from utilizing the equipment. The Director is placing a sign that states the equipment is for children ages 2 to 12 with parental supervision. This will allow the officers who patrol to ask teenagers to stay off the equipment. However, they cannot be thrown out of the park, unless they are seen causing damage, etc. Al Low explained how they handle issues similar at the Little League complex. Motion to approve placement of sign stating equipment age limits with adult supervision at Freedom Park made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by Alan Gerew. Motion passed 4-0.

New Business:

Men's Softball

Kurt Schatz stated that a representative from Men's Softball was to attend this meeting but was not in attendance. They had requested use of the Hauser Field complex into later use into the fall. The Director had refused this request due to the additional electrical costs.

Kurt Schatz distributed the new monthly calendars to the Recreation Commission members.

Alice Lavigne noted that the next Recreation Commission meeting will take place at the new Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department offices at 92 North Main Street, Pascoag. Alice also reported that the Open House went well with everyone being impressed by the renovations to the building completed with the assistance from Recreation Commission members and community volunteers. Refreshments were served to all in attendance.

Discussion by the Commission took place regarding Field Usage Fees after the meeting adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Juliette Lopez. Seconded by Al Low.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Motion Passed 4-0.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2006 6:30p.m., Burrillville
Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street,
Pascoag, RI.**

